

# A NEW SPECIES OF *LATIAxis* (GASTROPODA: MAGILIDAE) FROM QUEENSLAND, AUSTRALIA

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## Plate 1

Through the generosity of Mr. T. A. Garrard of Dundas, New South Wales, I am privileged to describe this new species of *Latiaxis* from southern Queensland.

Only a few species of this interesting family have been thus far discovered on the eastern coast of Australia. During the last few years the presence of two species known hitherto only from Japanese waters have been found to occur also off the shores of Australia (McMichael, 1961).

The decision to describe a new species of this group was made difficult due to the fact that only two specimens were available to me for study. A photograph of a third specimen in private hands was kindly lent to me through Mr. Garrard's efforts. Apparently in spite of inquiries to various sources, no other specimens are known to exist in private or institutional collections at the present time.

*Latiaxis (Pseudomurex) garrardi* n.sp.

## Plate 1, top four figures

**Description:** Shell medium in size, scabrous, of coarse solid growth, with an exerted spire, height 37.5 mm., aperture to end of canal 20 mm. Whorls 7, spire shouldered, body whorl shouldered and becoming convex below. Color ivory white with numerous scaly spiral cords; about 12 cords closely set on main convex area of body whorl, 3 above shoulder and 5 more widely spaced cords on lower body whorl and canal. Cestae number approximately 8 on spire; those on body whorl (holotype) of regular close set growth but becoming obsolete on the remaining portion of the body whorl where a healed break occurs.

Aperture ovate with 9 plicae extending from lip edge and receding deeply within. Parietal wall smooth, with edge adherent, canal of moderate length, open, curved and reflected backwards. Operculum not seen.

**Type material:** Holotype: Australian Museum, Sydney, New South Wales, Australia, No. C.65908. A single paratype, American Museum of Natural History, No. 135640. Trawled in 55-58 fathoms, 18 miles N.N.E. of Cape Moreton, due east of Caloundra, Queensland.

**Discussion:** The systematics of the Magilidae based on essentially slight modifications of shell morphology is in need of more adequate study before a sound basis for classification can be realized. The supraspecific categories now employed (Wenz, 1941) are at best of provisional value pending further studies on the biology of the soft parts and phylogeny.

The generic division to which *Pseudomurex* belongs is one of world-wide distribution, in tropical and subtropical waters. Two nominal

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species of *Latiaxis* that have been cited as *Coralliophila akibumi* Kira, 1962, from Tosa Bay, Japan, and "*Fusomurex alucoides* (Blainville)" Coen, 1922, from the Mediterranean Sea, have shell characters that, in a general way, ally them to *L. garrardi*. *L. akibumi* is of finer growth, its spiral cords are more widely spaced with minor intercallating cords, the aperture is proportionately larger, and the spire shorter (see pl. 1, bottom right figs.). In addition, *L. akibumi* has a bone white shell. "*Fusomurex alucoides* (Blainville)" has fewer but more elevated spiral cords, the axial costae are regularly more pronounced and the scabrous ornamentation is finer (see pl. 1, bottom left figs.).

The single paratype of the new species is only semi-mature, apparently at the same stage of growth represented by the photograph before me of the third specimen. At this stage of early growth, the coarseness of surface sculpture, which is characteristic of this species, is more conspicuously developed.



#### PLATE 1

Top left two figs: *Latiaxis (Pseudomurex) garrardi* n.sp. Holotype (A.M. No. C.65908). Top right two figs: *L. (P.) garrardi* n.sp. Paratype (A.M.N.H. No. 135640). Bottom left two figs: *L. (P.) alucoides* (Blainville), Melilla, Spanish Morocco, ? depth trawled. Bottom right two figs: *L. (P.) akibumi* (Kira), Tosa Bay, Japan, 100 fm.

## ADDENDUM

Since this manuscript was submitted, I have had an opportunity to examine a copy of the rare book, *Malacozoaries*, by H. M. Ducrotay de Blainville, comprising part of the *Fauna Française*. *Murex alucoides* was described on page 128, pl. 56, fig. 1. According to a compilation of dates of publication by Sherborn and Woodward, in *Annals and Mag. Nat. Hist.*, 1901, this part or page of Blainville's work appeared in March 1829. However, Giuseppe Olivi had previously employed the combination, *Murex alucoides*, for a different species in *Zoologia Adriatica*, in 1792. Thus Blainville's usage is a homonym.

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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